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Dear Madame(s)/Sir(s):

I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to reject the NAB's petition 04-160 that seeks to prevent XM radio from offering traffic and weather for many major metropolitan areas. As a subscriber located outside of those areas, I find it reassuring that when I do travel, I have accurate and reliable information relating to the weather and traffic conditions. Additionally, the service provided by XM goes above and beyond any similar service offered by the public broadcasters transmitting via traditional means as it offers continual updates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no local service that offers a similar service which is one of the reasons I decided to subscribe to XM radio.

I do not believe that this service represents a unfair competitive advantage to XM radio, rather it is one of the results of a changing marketplace where subscription services are able to find and fill niche markets that traditional broadcasters have long since abandon. Should XM be forced to cease these broadcasts at the urging of the NAB, then it should also be mandated that each station provide a similar service in each of those markets. After all, if they feel that XM radio infringes on their revenues because of the service it provides, the question then becomes why don't they offer a close approximation of that service to generate revenue on their own accord.

The bottom line is that regional stations do not chose to offer 24/7 broadcasts of traffic and weather for the simple reason that they cannot generate sufficient revenue from commerical advertisers to make it economically feasible. To foreclose XM from offering that service would quash free enterprise and only service to further insulate the traditional broadcasters from any real competition.

I hope that you take these words to heart. I strongly urge you to make the only logical decision that supports the free marketplace and encourages innovation.

Sincerely,

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